



Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook January 15 - 21, 2015

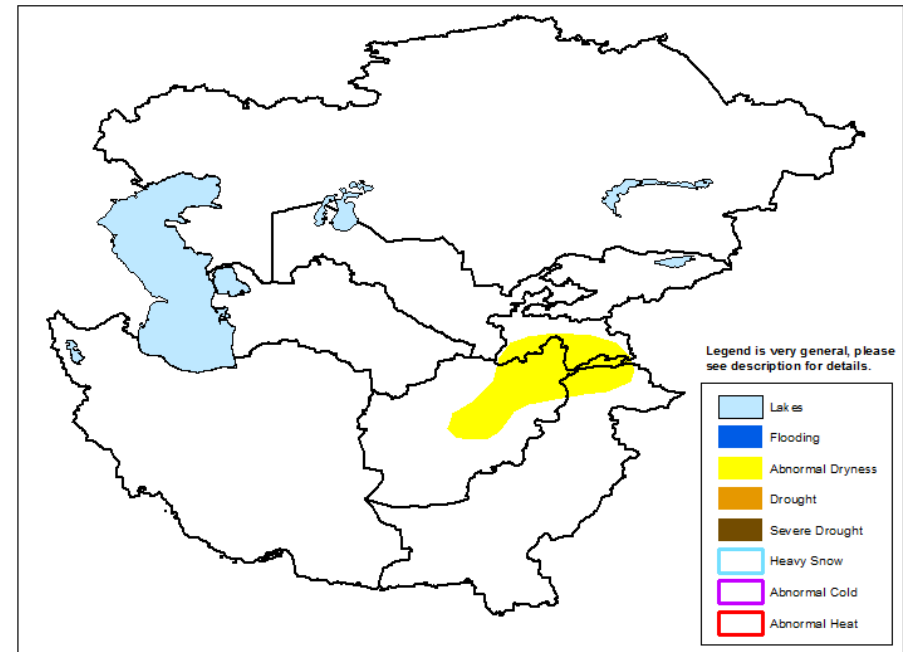
Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged above-normal across Central Asia from January 4 – 10 with the largest positive temperature anomalies observed across central Kazakhstan. Maximum temperatures were above freezing except for extreme northern parts of Kazakhstan. The abnormal warmth (maximum temperatures near 25 degrees C across southern Turkmenistan/Uzbekistan) for this time of year resulted in a lack of snow cover for southern areas of the region including Afghanistan. During the next week, the GFS model indicates that above-normal temperatures are likely to continue.

Precipitation

A winter storm brought widespread precipitation (2 to 25 mm, locally more) to much of Central Asia from January 4 - 10. The heaviest precipitation (25 mm or more, liquid equivalent) was observed from southern Kazakhstan south to Tajikistan. During the next week, little to no precipitation is forecast across Kazakhstan, while rain and high-elevation snow is expected across Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Although the precipitation amounts could become locally heavy (more than 25 mm, liquid equivalent), a heavy snow hazard is not posted as snowfall would be beneficial to alleviate current low snow water equivalent values.

Snow water equivalent values are currently running well below-normal for Afghanistan. Therefore, an abnormal dryness polygon is posted for the higher elevations of Afghanistan and adjacent areas of Tajikistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.